

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:KKJONIETZ:RM
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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: EASTPORT REFINERY

1. ON DECEMBER 21, PITTSTON VP A.F. KAULAKIS AND PITTSTON ATTORNEY JONATHAN HILL CALLED ON VINE. JONIETZ WAS ALSO PRESENT. PITTSTON REVIEWED ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NECESSARY FEDERAL AND STATE PERMITS COVERING THE PROPOSED EASTPORT REFINERY AND MARINE TERMINAL, AND DETAILED ITS PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, WHICH DATE FROM 1972. PITTSTON OFFICIALS APPARENTLY REPEATEDLY MET AT TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH CCG AND OTHERS UP UNTIL MAY, 1973, WHEN, ACCORDING TO KAULAKIS, THE COMPANY FOUND ITS ACCESS TO THE GOC EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF, COINCIDENT WITH THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO THE EASTPORT PROJECT MADE BY THEN ENVIRONMENT MINISTER JEANNE SAUVE.
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2. AT MEETING WITH VINE PITTSTON SOUGHT ADVICE AS TO BEST WAY TO REOPEN THIS DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GOC WITH RESULTS OF STUDIES BEARING ON THE NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY OF HEAD HARBOR PASSAGE RECENTLY COMPLETED BY COMPANY CONSULTANTS. IN KAULAKIS' WORDS, PITTSTON NOW SEEKS "A

REASONABLE HEARING BEFORE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF THE GOC,"
IN AN ATTEMPT TO REVERSE GOC POSITION. VINE URGED PITTSTON
PURSUE SUCH A HEARING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER AND AGREED

THAT, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REQUEST
GOC TO AFFORD PITTSTON SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

3. PITTSTON INDICATED THAT EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR IT
PLANNED TO SEEK A PARTIAL REVISION OF THE PRECONSTRUCTION
CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE MAINE BOARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION. THE COMPANY IS STILL DETERMINING ITS POSITION
INTERNALLY SO KAULAKIS WAS NOT SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT CONDI-
TIONS PITTSTON WOULD SEEK TO HAVE MODIFIED. THE TIMING OF
THE PITTSTON APPROACH TO MAINE IS NOT YET FIRM BUT HEARINGS
UPON ANY REVISION OF THE TERMS OF THE MAINE BOARD ORDER ARE
UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE LAST WEEK IN JANUARY,
1977. VINE URGED PITTSTON TO ADOPT A POSITION OF MAXIMUM
CANDOR WITH THE GOC, BOTH WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT IN
GENERAL AND WITH REGARD TO THE REVISIONS WHICH PITTSTON
INTENDS TO SEEK FROM THE MAINE BOARD.

4. PITTSTON PROVIDED DEPARTMENT WITH A COPY OF THEIR
RESPONSE TO THE DECEMBER 1 LETTER FROM ROBINSON AS
WELL AS PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CANADIAN COAST
GUARD (POUCHED TO EMBASSY-DAY), AND PROMISED TO GET BACK
TO DEPARTMENT RE TIMING OF MEETING WITH GOC.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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